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REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 17 are amended and Claim 5 is cancelled. Claims 1-4 and 6-18, as amended, remain in the application. Claims 13 and 14 are withdrawn as being drawn to a nonelected species.

The Rejections:

In the Office Action dated September 24, 2007, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 8, 12 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al (6,082,506) in view of Liebtrau et al (6,012,533) and in further view of Price (837,961).

The Examiner rejected Claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as being unpatentable in view of Huang, Liebtrau and Price, and in further view of Rebillard et al (US 6,173,813).

The Examiner objected to Claims 5-7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Response:

Applicants amended independent Claims 1 and 17 to include the subject matter of cancelled Claim 5. Applicants amended Claims 6 and 7 to depend from Claim 1.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicants believe that the claims of record, including withdrawn Claims 13 and 14, now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.